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Vision

**Safer Communities
Through Successful
Youth**

Mission Statement

**ADJC enhances
public protection by
assisting in the
changing of
delinquent thinking
and behaviors of
juvenile offenders
committed to the
Department**



Youth Voices are Heard Advocates Ensure Justice

As part of the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) Legal Systems Division, the Office of Youth Rights consists of five staff members (two at Adobe Mountain School, and one each at the other three secure schools) who are supervised by the Youth Rights Ombuds Administrator. Formerly known as Youth Rights Specialists, the staff of this very important unit are now called Juvenile Ombuds, a title that reflects their role as voices for those juveniles who are committed to our care.

The Ombuds advocate for juveniles in agency administrative hearings, facilitate the juvenile grievance process, monitor conditions and service delivery systems, investigate juvenile complaints, and advocate for improvements and access to appropriate care. They serve as an important link between the juveniles and the facility staff.

In early 2005, the Department implemented a revised juvenile grievance process. This procedure is at the heart of ADJC's Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice under CRIPA. The primary purpose of a "closed loop" grievance procedure is to enhance safety in ADJC's facilities by giving juveniles an outlet for their frustration and teaching pro-social problem solving skills. Additionally, such a system allows ADJC to identify and address problem areas. Essentially, the grievance procedure gives juveniles the right to grieve any inappropriate or infringing conditions, behavior, or action by staff, volunteers, or other juveniles.

ADJC's Juvenile Grievance Policy states that the Department "shall ensure that juveniles have access to a system of identifying and promptly resolving grievances." Grievances must be truthful and are confidential; furthermore, any juvenile who chooses to file a grievance shall not be subject to any disciplinary action or retaliation. In December 2004, there were 313 outstanding grievances in the old grievance system, and a substantial number of these were many months old. Currently, there are thirteen pending grievances and seven are being investigated by the Juvenile Ombuds. Automation is an integral part of the grievance procedure, thus permitting the Youth Rights Ombuds Administrator to carefully monitor the efficiency and appropriate resolution of each grievance that has been filed.

In addition to their dual primary responsibilities of advocating for juveniles and facilitating grievances, the Juvenile Ombuds staff are responsible for training all juveniles committed to the Department regarding their rights during their stay in secure care, understanding and accessing the grievance process, and assisting in the orientation process by sharing responsibility for training juveniles based on the new Youth Handbook. Furthermore, the Youth Rights Ombuds Administrator currently serves as ADJC's resource for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996.

What's New at ADJC

Profiles of Successful Youth

Lynn earned an absolute discharge in March 2005, just four days before her 18th birthday. Lynn spent over nine months on community supervision and continued with her success after her discharge. She earned her GED and started to take online courses through Rio Salado College while at Black Canyon School. While on parole, Lynn worked for JCPenny and continued her education, utilizing her vocational rehabilitative services to pay for college. In her life plan, she wrote that she planned to return to Tucson. However, Lynn moved to the state of Washington and is currently enrolled at Washington State University, taking courses through the dentistry program. Lynn has already earned an associates degree and plans to seek her bachelor's degree. She wants to become a dentist. Lynn realizes the importance of education and is now fulfilling a life-long dream. Way to go Lynn, we applaud your efforts!

- The Department is pleased to be working with two professionals who are providing consultative services. Both consultants are working with Dr. Kellie Warren and management staff to ensure program training and implementation. Paula Schaefer, of Paula Schaefer & Associates, is the former Director of the Planning for Female Offenders Unit for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Ms. Schaefer works with a variety of state and national criminal and juvenile justice professionals to promote female and culturally responsive services within the juvenile and criminal justice system. Ms. Schaefer is also a consultant for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). Her expertise on this subject matter will greatly enhance the treatment services at Black Canyon School. David Stewart, Ph.D., is the Department's consultant in the area of substance abuse. Dr. Stewart is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor for Seattle Pacific University, Department of Graduate Psychology. Dr. Stewart is also a certified chemical dependency professional and his work demonstrates an impressive knowledge base in the area of substance abuse and addictive behavior, as well as extensive program evaluation. Dr. Stewart will be visiting and monitoring the agency's New Freedom groups, reviewing our substance abuse services, meeting with employees on the substance abuse treatment units, and providing a brief overview training during the clinical team meetings.
- Earlier this summer, ADJC's Vocational/Workforce Development Program was selected as the 2006 Innovative Program of the Year at the Arizona Correctional Educators' (ACE) Conference held in Scottsdale, Arizona. ADJC's Vocational/Workforce Development Program received this distinction for programs in place at all four secure care facilities. All sites have Introduction to Construction Trades and Introduction to Automotive Trades classes. Computer Refurbishing classes are possible due to a partnership with Arizona StRUT (sponsored by Intel and Motorola) who donated the computers used in classes. The Black Canyon School Culinary Program is offered to females in partnership with Rio Salado College (high school and college credit is available). A state of the art commercial kitchen opened in February 2006 for the "lab portion" of the program.

Director's Corner

Working in the field of juvenile corrections certainly does present its fair share of challenges. However, on August 23, 2006 I was reminded once again of all the hard work and dedication shown by the Department's staff. We held our third annual Honors Ceremony at the Phoenix Herberger Theater recognizing over 180 individuals and groups for their daily and unselfish acts, working as a team to achieve our vision of "Safer Communities through Successful Youth" It was a wonderful event to simply recognize individuals who have gone beyond their normal work duties, an event that I personally look forward to each year. As director, I am certainly aware that each of us has an important role to serve in enhancing each juvenile entrusted to our care and that I could not do this job alone.

On September 15, 2006 the agency will release the fourth report issued by the CRIPA Consultants. I am pleased that we are making steady progress in all areas identified in the initial investigation. Be sure to visit our public website at www.azdjg.gov to view the report on-line.